

the entire width of the material web is passed through the processing plant, and the material web is pulled through the processing plant by a controllable force,

wherein the successive increase of the width of that part which is passed through the processing plant is preceded by an initial interval with an essentially constant width,

wherein the successive increase of the width of that part which is passed through the processing plant occurs through at least two monotonously growing phases with an intermediate interval with an essentially constant width, and

wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web.

4. (Twice Amended) A method for threading a material web through a processing plant, in which the material web is divided by a longitudinal cut into a first narrow part and a second broad part, the first part being passed through the processing plant while the second part is separated, the width of the first part is increased successively so that a growing share of the material web is passed through the processing plant, so that finally the entire width of the material web is passed through the processing plant, and the material web is pulled through the processing plant by a controllable force, the magnitude of the controllable force being automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web,

wherein the material web, in alternating directions, passes through two or more decks, and

wherein the length of at least one intermediate interval exceeds the length of the material web located in an individual deck, and the length of the at least one intermediate interval is smaller than twice the length of the material web located in an individual deck.

6. (Twice Amended) A method for threading a material web through a processing plant, in which the material web is divided by a longitudinal cut into a first narrow part and a second broad part, the first part being passed through the processing plant while the second part is separated, the width of the first part is increased successively so that a growing share of the material web is passed through the processing plant, so that finally the entire width of the material web is passed through the processing plant, and the material web is pulled through the processing plant by a controllable force, the magnitude of the controllable force being automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web,

wherein the length of each of two or more monotonously growing phases is smaller than the length of the material web located in an individual deck.

7. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the width of the first part during the initial interval is 50-200 mm.

8. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the width of the first part during one or more monotonously growing phases is increased by a factor of 2 to

5.

-- 21. (Newly added) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the material web, in alternating directions, passes through two or more decks, and the length of at least one of the intermediate intervals exceeds the length of the material web located in an individual deck.

22. (Newly added) A method according to claim 21, wherein the length of the at least one intermediate interval is smaller than twice the length of the material web located in an individual deck.

23. (Newly added) A method according to claim 22, wherein the length of each of the at least two monotonously growing phases is smaller than the length of the material web located in an individual deck.

24. (Newly added) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the material web, in alternating directions, passes through two or more decks, and the successive increase of the width of that part which is passed through the processing plant occurs through three or more monotonously growing phases with intermediate intervals with essentially constant widths, and the length of the intermediate intervals exceeds the length of the material web located in an individual deck.

25. (Newly added) A method according to claim 24, wherein the length of the intermediate intervals is smaller than twice the length of the material web located in an individual deck.

26. (Newly added) A method according to claim 25, wherein the length of each of the two first monotonously growing phases is smaller than the length of the material web located in an individual deck.

27. (Newly added) A method according to claim 1, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web when entering the dryer.

28. (Newly added) A method according to claim 21, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web when entering the dryer.

29. (Newly added) A method according to claim 22, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web when entering the dryer.

30. (Newly added) A method according to claim 23, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web when entering the dryer.

31. (Newly added) A method according to claim 24, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web when entering the dryer.

32. (Newly added) A method according to claim 25, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web when entering the dryer.

33. (Newly added) A method according to claim 26, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is automatically adjusted to the width of the first part of the material web when entering the dryer.

34. (Newly added) A method according to claim 1, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is selected proportional to the width of the first part.

35. (Newly added) A method according to claim 21, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is selected proportional to the width of the first part.

36. (Newly added) A method according to claim 22, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is selected proportional to the width of the first part.

37. (Newly added) A method according to claim 23, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is selected proportional to the width of the first part.

38. (Newly added) A method according to claim 24, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is selected proportional to the width of the first part.

39. (Newly added) A method according to claim 25, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is selected proportional to the width of the first part.

40. (Newly added) A method according to claim 26, wherein the magnitude of the controllable force is selected proportional to the width of the first part.

41. (Newly added) A method according to claim 1, wherein the magnitude of the force is selected proportional to the width of the first part where the longitudinal cut is made.

42. (Newly added) A method according to claim 21, wherein the magnitude of the force is selected proportional to the width of the first part where the longitudinal cut is made.

43. (Newly added) A method according to claim 22, wherein the magnitude of the force is selected proportional to the width of the first part where the longitudinal cut is made.

44. (Newly added) A method according to claim 23, wherein the magnitude of the force is selected proportional to the width of the first part where the longitudinal cut is made.

45. (Newly added) A method according to claim 24, wherein the magnitude of the force is selected proportional to the width of the first part where the longitudinal cut is made.

46. (Newly added) A method according to claim 25, wherein the magnitude of the force is selected proportional to the width of the first part where the longitudinal cut is made.

47. (Newly added) A method according to claim 26, wherein the magnitude of the force is selected proportional to the width of the first part where the longitudinal cut is made. --